

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17, 2009
MEADOWEDGE, WEST SAYVILLE, NY**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Chairman, Town of Riverhead
Ray Corwin	Member at Large
Dawn Hopkins	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Gregory Dawson	Vice Chairman, Town of Islip
Amy Engel	Member of the Board
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Edward Walters	Trustee, Town of Southampton

PARKS DEPARTMENT

John W. Pavacic	Commissioner
Colleen Hofmeister	Principal Contracts Examiner
Tom Malanga	Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Pamela Greene	Director, Division of Real Property, Acquisitions and Management
Roger Podd	County Attorney's Office
Tom Ryan	Office of Legislator Vioria Fisher

Trustee White called the meeting to order. Trustee White welcomed Dawn Hopkins, the new Parks Trustee from the Town of Brookhaven.

PUBLIC PORTION

There were not any members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2009

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 6-0-0. (This vote did not include Trustee Cardillo).

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Pavacic reported on the following:

Marina RFEI

The Commissioner reported another RFEI committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. We are hoping the process will be wrapped up in the near future.

Scully Estate

Commissioner Pavacic reported we have been working with DPW to get a Certificate of Occupancy for the building. We hope to have a C.O. by the end of this year.

Robinson Duck Farm Natural Borders Dog Park

The Commissioner reported the dog park opened on Monday. We've had input from some of the users about adjustments they would like to see for the park. We have arranged a meeting with some of the dog park users to review some management concepts regarding dog parks. We hope to meet in January.

Erosion Damage

The Commissioner reported there have been meetings and discussions with the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (FRES), the State Emergency Management Office and DPW. The County has provided initial documentation of the erosion damage to the State. The Governor has acted on a declaration of emergency. The question still remains as to whether there will be money forthcoming. The steel sheet wall at Smith Point is completely exposed. That is the last line of defense.

Besides Smith Point, we experienced damage at Meschutt, Theodore Roosevelt County Park and Shinnecock East.

Corporate Sponsorship or Sale of Naming Rights of Suitable County Facilities, Parks or Roads (Res. 234-2009)

Tom Malanga reported this is an exciting initiative and the Commissioner has asked him to head up the Parks Department's responsibilities under this resolution. Mr. Malanga said he hopes to have a list of proposed sites for the Trustees review by the February meeting. The Parks Department will be making their recommendations to the Trustees and the Trustees will have to give their stamp of approval.

Chairman Cardillo asked if the money goes to the Parks Department, will that reduce their operating budget. Tom Malanga responded that the issue is not addressed in the resolution, but if you read the legislative intent, it talks about the economic crisis the County is facing.

Commissioner Pavacic said if someone sponsors something specific for a park, something we would not have normally done, it would not be seen as an offset.

Trustee Corwin asked if some corporate sponsor is willing to pay directly for something in the Master Plan, so there are no dollars changing hands, could that work?

Trustee McKay thought that would be unlikely.

2010 Budget

The Commissioner reported 2010 is going to be a challenging year. Our budget was again cut significantly because of the economy.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Cardillo welcomed our new Trustee, Dawn Hopkins.

Chairman Cardillo wished a Merry Christmas to all.

ROUND TABLE

Certificate of Necessity

Pamela Greene reported the County Executive introduced a Certificate of Necessity, which was passed and approved by the Legislature, to allow the legacy funding for the purchase of open space with municipal partners to not sunset at the end of this year and for the time frame to be extended out for another 4 years.

Marina RFEI

Colleen Hofmeister reported we are still getting many inquiries from the public who are concerned and have their own misgivings on this issue. Tomorrow we are having a meeting and three proposers will be coming in for a question and answer discussion. At this point in time it looks like the Evaluation Committee is leaning towards improving, in-house, the mechanisms whereby we operate these marinas versus going out for privatization.

RFEI for Peconic Dunes Property

Ms. Hofmeister reported we are working on an RFEI for the property which is currently being used for the Peconic Dunes Camp. As we get further along in that process, we'll be coming back to the Trustees for their input. Cornell has been there for several years and is eager to make a long term plan for staying at the property. The property is in a state of disarray and we're wondering where we can find the funding to make the necessary repairs.

RFP for Horseback Riding Facility at West Hills County Park

Colleen Hofmeister reported another RFP that is coming up is for the horseback riding facility at West Hills County Park. Louise Privitera, who has been running that facility for many years, recently lost her husband. She had been very interested in continuing, but we have not yet heard from her.

Earth Day Dinner

Tom Malanga reported the Earth Day Dinner, given by the Parks Foundation, is scheduled for April 23rd, 7:00 PM at Timber Point Country Club. The County's Earth Day Celebration at Indian Island is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th. Some of the Trustees have been involved in the Parks system for a long time and if you know of anyone worthy of being honored, please let me know. We are hoping for a good cross section on honorees. We plan on having a silent auction at the event. If anyone has any items to contribute, it would be appreciated.

GATR Site

Trustee White asked about the status of the GATR site communications.

Commissioner Pavacic responded that the new cell carrier is preparing paperwork to go to the FAA. Once we get a response from FAA, if there's something that we have an issue with, we'll look to sit down with them to work that out. Once worked out with the FAA we will have to go to the State Historic Preservation office for approval.

Smith Point Master Plan

Trustee Corwin inquired on the status of the Smith Point Master Plan.

Commissioner Pavacic responded that CEQ adopted the SEQRA review and so did the Legislature. We have some capital money that has been appropriated for Smith Point, but that money may be eaten up just with the erosion.

Opening of the John Fritz Pier

Chairman Cardillo asked if an opening date has been determined and if there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony. Commissioner Pavacic replied the pilings are in and most of the supporting structure for the deck is in. The Commissioner reported we will have some type ceremony in the spring.

I.R. 1273

Chairman Cardillo extended a thank you to Legislator Vilorio Fisher for her vote against I.R. 1273.

The next Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21st, 2010 at Meadowedge in West Sayville, New York.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Corwin. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0